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September 20, 2016

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman Federal Communication Commission

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90

WC Docket No. 14-259

As a Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor, elected by the citizens of Cherokee Nation, I am writing this letter in support of Lake Region and its efforts to bring broadband to the Cherokee Tribal citizens. This much-needed service is not currently available to the majority our members.

Broadband is transforming lives and bringing economic development to the areas that adopt it. However, citizens of the Cherokee Nation have been left behind, with particularly devastating impact on our children. This is why I am so excited that Lake Region Electric Cooperative, through its subsidiary Lake Region Technology & Communications, LLC ("Lake Region") has answered our call for broadband when others would not. Lake Region has started building a fiber network to bring broadband to its member owners in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, an area which includes tens of thousands of the Cherokee Nation citizens.

Lake Region's commitment to the Cherokee Nation is not new. We were left in the dark when larger companies passed us over as they built electricity. In response, Lake Region Electric Cooperative was formed to bring power to our Tribal members. Lake Region Electric Cooperative has been providing this essential service for nearly seventy years.

Broadband will empower our youth and create pathways for younger Tribal citizens to stay in their community. I urge you to grant Lake Region's application for review. Another day of delay is another day of missed opportunity for Cherokee National citizens.

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Cherokee Nation Council District 1 Councilor